

professional service, Don has served as a state or chapter executive committee officer with several defense industry professional associations including the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the American Defense Preparedness Association (later the National Defense Industry Association), and the JROTC Awards Banquet Committee, among others.

In his personal life Don has always been a staunch, committed Conservative. His first official participation in the Republican Party came when he offered to volunteer in the re-election campaign of President Nixon in 1972. He went on to serve as a volunteer in both Reagan landslides of 1980 and 1984. His first foray into local Michigan Republican Party politics was as a volunteer in the Honorable Joe Knollenberg's successful campaign for the United States House of Representatives in 1992. Don was later elected as a precinct delegate and joined the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans. During his time in the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans, Don has led, organized, or assisted in almost every volunteer effort undertaken by the organization in order to promote principled Conservative values which make our GOP the grand party it is. Don's other greatest achievements are his two children, Beth and Steve, and his four grandchildren. Beth and her husband Eric, have three children, Megan, Sean, and Kelly. Steve and his wife Andrea have one child, Christopher.

Madam Speaker, Donald W. Kolhoff has faithfully served Michigan and Wayne County. As he receives this award for his lifetime of achievements, he serves as a timeless example of selflessness and public service. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Donald W. Kolhoff upon his award and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

#### HONORING RAYMOND SERCU OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raymond Sercu, a great leader in the community of Napa Valley. Mr. Sercu is being honored by Napa Valley Product Services Industry for his many contributions to developmentally disabled adults in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Sercu was born in Buffalo, New York and served in the United States Air Force for two years before coming to California for post-graduate work at UC Berkeley and San Jose State. He worked as Area Manager for National Cash Register from 1954 to 1965 before beginning his distinguished tenure with Vallerger's Markets of Napa in 1965.

Mr. Sercu's time as President of one of Napa's premier small businesses is only the beginning of his extensive community involvement. Ray has served as Chairman of Queen of the Valley Hospital's Board of Trustees, the Northern California Grocers Association, Retail Marketing Services and the Napa County 4-H Sponsorship Committee. He has also served

as President of the Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation, and in the Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce among many others. He is a Rotarian and lifetime PTA member who was appointed to the Napa City Council from 1999 to 2001. Of particular note on this occasion is Ray's service to developmentally disabled adults as Chairman of the Product Services Industry Board of Directors and President of North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sercu has earned the continued admiration of all who have worked with him. His colleagues and friends describe Ray as one of the kindest, most generous people they have ever met, someone who would give the shirt off his back to make the community a better place.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Ray Sercu for his many years of service. He has been a model citizen and leader in the Napa Valley and his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community. I join his wife Jenny and six children in thanking Ray for a distinguished lifetime of service and wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

#### UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the University of Washington School of Medicine and their incredible standing as one of the best medical schools in the world. According to US News & World Report, the University of Washington tops the list of national primary care medical schools for the 16th consecutive year.

The groundbreaking and life-saving work done at the UW School of Medicine is beyond extraordinary. I feel a sense of pride to know that the best primary care medical school in the nation is located in my home state of Washington.

The School of Medicine was also ranked first in family medicine and rural medicine for the 18th straight year, fourth in women's health medicine, sixth in geriatric and pediatric medicine and eighth in internal medicine. Additionally, six active and retired members of the UW community are among 210 new Fellows named to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences: David Baker, William Gerberding, Andrew Meltzoff, Ed Miles, James Truman and Gunther Uhlmann.

Previously, the University of Washington was ranked the 17th best university in the world by the Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and 22nd among the top 100 global universities by Newsweek. The University of Washington has proven itself to be a world-class institution and it is truly a privilege to represent a region boasting some of the greatest minds in the world. I congratulate them on the honor for the School of Medicine and look forward to continue working together to make sure we provide the best medical care and training possible.

#### READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I supported Reading is Fundamental, a national project, that received funding through H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. RIF promotes youth literacy by providing underserved children access to free and new books at programs across our nation.

It is a good program, and I am pleased to support it.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 342 encouraging the designation of May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day".

H. Res. 342 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for a day to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States and document their harrowing experiences and subsequent achievements. May 2, 2009 has aptly been chosen for this day of commemoration since it also the date on which a powerful symposium entitled "Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective" is being sponsored by the Library of Congress and Vietnamese-American organizations across the United States.

More than one million Vietnamese refugees left their home country following the Vietnam War. Many risked their lives fleeing peril and destruction on small, overcrowded ships. Others escaped by land to refugee camps throughout Southeast Asia. Over 22,000 of these courageous individuals settled in Minnesota and I am proud to say that many now call Minnesota's 4th District their home.

Despite the difficult conditions they left behind, Vietnamese refugees have prospered in the United States. In Minnesota, and across the United States, Vietnamese-Americans have made their communities more prosperous and more vibrant. Today, Vietnamese-Americans are amongst the most distinguished contributors to the fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics in America. Vietnamese restaurants, retail services, and grocery stores have helped turn University Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota into a thriving business center.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to recognize the great courage and achievement of Vietnamese refugees everywhere by joining me in supporting H. Res. 342.